AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of perfluoropolyethers having at least one -COF end group of formula:

T-CFX'-O-R_f-CFX-COF (I)

wherein:

T is equal to COF, F, or C_1-C_3 perfluoroalkyl;

~~X, X',~~ X and X' are equal to or different from each other[[,]] and are F or $-CF_3$;

R_f is selected from:

- $-(C_2F_4O)_m(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_n(CF_2O)_p(CF(CF_3)O)_q-$

wherein:

the sum n+m+p+q ranges from 2 to 200,

the (p+q)/(m+n+p+q) ratio is lower than or equal to 10:100~~, preferably comprised between 0.5:100 and 4:100~~,

the n/m ratio ranges from 0.2 to 6~~, preferably from 0.5 to 3~~;

m, n, p, and q[[,]] are equal to or different from each other and when ~~m, n~~ m and n range from 1 to 100~~, preferably from 1 to 80,~~ then ~~p, q~~ p and q range from 0 to 80~~, preferably from 0 to 50~~;

the units with n, m, p, q indexes being ~~statistically~~ randomly distributed along the chain,

- $-(CF_2CF_2CF_2O)_r-$

wherein r ranges from 2 to 200,

- $-(CF(CF_3)CF_2O)_s-$

wherein s ranges from 2 to 200,

by reduction of the corresponding perfluoropolyethers containing peroxidic bonds, using gaseous hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst comprising metals of the VIII group supported on metal fluorides, optionally in the presence of perfluorinated solvents, inert at a temperature from 20°C to 140°C~~, preferably from 80°C to 130°C~~ and at a pressure between 1 and 50 atm~~, preferably between 1 and 10 atm~~.

2. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein R_f is selected ~~in the group formed by~~ from one of the group consisting of:

$-(CF_2CF_2O)_m-(CF_2O)_p-[[,]]$ and $-(CF_2CF(CF_3)O)_n-(CF_2O)_p-(CF(CF_3)O)_q-$.

3. (Currently amended) A process acording to claim 2, wherein the metal of the VIII group is Pd, Pt, or Rh~~, preferably Pd~~.

4. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the metal fluoride is selected in the group consisting of CaF_2, BaF_2, MgF_2, and AlF_3~~, preferably CaF_2~~.

5. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the VIII group metal on the metal fluoride is comprised ~~beteeen~~ between 0.1% and 10% with respect to the catalyst total weight~~, preferably between 1% and 2% by weight~~.

6. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein the ~~used catalyst~~ amount of catalyst used is in the range 1%-10%~~, preferably 1%-5%~~ by weight with respect to the peroxidic perfluoropoly-ether.

7. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the (p+q)/(m+n+p+q) ratio is between 0.5:100 and 4:100.

8. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the n/m ratio ranges from 0.5 to 3.

9. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein m and n range from 1 to 80.

10. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein p and q range from 0 to 50.

11. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature is from 80°C to 130°C.

12. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the pressure is between 1 and 10 atm.

13. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the metal is Pd.

14. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the metal fluoride is CaF_2.

15. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein the catalyst total weight is between 1% and 2% by weight.

16. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the amount of used catalyst is in the range 1% to 5% by weight.